COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 14 (6) TABLED ON OCT 31 2002

Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight

Preliminary Report on "Doing Our Part", The Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Social Agenda Report

Chair: Mr. Charles Dent

105-00374/

Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight

October 31, 2002

HON. ANTHONY (TONY) WHITFORD
SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight wishes to provide it's Preliminary Report on "Doing Our Part", the Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Social Agenda Report, and commends it to the House.

Sincerely,

Charles Dent
Chairman

P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife
Northwest Territories
X1A 2L9
T: (867) 669-2299
F: (867) 873-0432
www.assembly.gov.nt.ca

MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

MEMBERSHIP

Charles Dent
MLA Frame Lake
Chair

Floyd Roland
MLA Inuvik Boot Lake
Deputy Chair

Brendan Bell
MLA Yellowknife South

Bill Braden
MLA Great Slave

Paul Delorey
MLA Hay River North

Jane Groenewegen
MLA Hay River South

David Krutko
MLA Mackenzie Delta

Leon Lafferty
MLA North Slave

Sandy Lee
MLA Range Lake

Michael McLeod
MLA Deh Cho

Steve Nitah
MLA Tu Nedhe

STAFF MEMBERS

Doug Schauerte
Deputy Clerk

Colette Langlois
Director, Research Services

Jaqueline McLean
Committee Coordinator

Preliminary Report on "Doing Our Part", Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Social Agenda

---

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight had its first look at the Government of the Northwest Territories Response to the Social Agenda on October 30, 2002 when it was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Committee sincerely wishes that the document had been tabled earlier in the session to allow Members an opportunity to raise questions and have a more informed debate during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee is encouraged by the Government's acceptance and agreement to all of the recommendations put forward by the Social Agenda Working Group, however we had hoped that the *Response* would have been developed in collaboration with the same stakeholder groups.

Members of the Committee are disappointed that the Premier did not take the opportunity to mention the $1.4 million in new funding to support several of the activities outlined in the response in his Statement to the Legislative Assembly. The news was not released until late on October 30, 2002, and Regular Members learned about this at the same time as the public through a press release. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight looks forward to finding out where this money is being allocated and for what purposes. Committee Members question if this amount of money will be sufficient to address in a meaningful way the recommendations made by the Social Agenda Working Group. We need to know if there are plans for any more money allocated in this fiscal year.

The Committee expects to be involved in the development of any government - wide social policy principles and spending as recommended by the Social Agenda Working Group, with the expectation that the Government will present a progress report to the Legislative Assembly in February 2003.